95-206

No. _____

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
October Term, 1995

PERRY MARUCA,
Petitioner,
vs.
THE STATE OF COLORADO,
Respondent.

On Petition for Writ of Certiorari to the Colorado Court of Appeals

RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO CERTIORARI

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QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

1. Whether the evidence reasonably supports the Colorado trial court's finding that Petitioner, in custody and un-Mirandized, voluntarily consented to (indeed, invited) a police search and seizure of his two handguns in his home?

(Or, alternatively, whether the evidence reasonably supports admission of the search-observation testimony under the doctrines of inevitable discovery or independent evidence?)

2. Whether the evidence reasonably supports the Colorado trial court's findings that none of three un-Mirandized, custodial admissions by Petitioner was preceded by interrogation and that all were voluntary?

3. Whether the evidence reasonably supports the Colorado Court of Appeals' alternative conclusion that there was overwhelming evidence of Petitioner's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt regardless of the three admissions and the search-observation testimony, rendering any errors in their admission harmless beyond a reasonable doubt?

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PAGE

QUESTIONS PRESENTED FOR REVIEW i

STATEMENT OF THE CASE 1

SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT 8

ARGUMENT 9

I. THE TOTALITY OF THE EVIDENCE REASONABLY SUPPORTS THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING OF VOLUNTARY CONSENT BY PETITIONER TO THE SEARCH AND SEIZURE OF HIS GUNS. (THE RECORD ALSO REASONABLY ESTABLISHES INEVITABLE DISCOVERY OR INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE OF HIS GUNS.) 9

II. THE TOTALITY OF THE EVIDENCE REASONABLY SUPPORTS THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING THAT PETITIONER'S THREE UN-MIRANDIZED ADMISSIONS WERE VOLUNTARY AND NOT PRECEDED BY INTERROGATION. 12

III. THE RECORD REASONABLY SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF GUILT BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT WITHOUT THE ADMISSIONS AND THE SEARCH-OBSERVATION TESTIMONY. . 17

CONCLUSION 19

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES **PAGE**

Arizona v. Fulminante, 499 U.S. 279, 111 S. Ct. 1246, 113 L. Ed. 2d 302 (1991) 17

Chapman v. California, 386 U.S. 18, 87 S. Ct. 824, 17 L. Ed. 2d 705 (1967) 17

Colorado v. Connelly, 479 U.S. 157, 107 S. Ct. 515, 93 L. Ed. 2d 473 (1986) 16

Dandridge v. Williams, 397 U.S. 471, 90 S. Ct. 1153, 25 L. Ed. 2d 491 (1970) 12, 15

Florida v. Royer, 460 U.S. 491, 103 S. Ct. 1319, 75 L. Ed. 2d 229 (1983) 9, 11

Illinois v. Gates, 462 U.S. 213, 103 S. Ct. 2317, 76 L. Ed. 2d 527 (1983) 12

Lego v. Twomey, 404 U.S. 477, 92 S. Ct. 619, 30 L. Ed. 2d 618 (1972) 9, 16

Michigan v. Mosley, 423 U.S. 106, 96 S. Ct. 321, 41 L. Ed. 2d 313 (1975) 10

Miranda v. Arizona, 384 U.S. 436, 86 S. Ct. 1602, 16 L. Ed. 2d 694 (1966) 12

Murray v. United States, 487 U.S. 533 108 S. Ct. 2529, 101 L. Ed. 2d 472 (1988) 12, 17

TABLE OF AUTHORITIES

CASES **PAGE**

Nardone v. United States, 308 U.S. 338, 60 S. Ct. 266, 84 L. Ed. 307 (1939) 17

New York v. Quarles, 467 U.S. 649, 104 S. Ct. 2626, 81 L. Ed. 2d 550 (1984) 13-15

Nix v. Williams, 467 U.S. 431, 104 S. Ct. 2501, 81 L. Ed. 2d 377 (1984) 11, 12

Oregon v. Bradshaw, 462 U.S. 1039, 103 S. Ct. 2830, 77 L. Ed. 2d 405 (1983) 10, 16

Rhode Island v. Innis, 446 U.S. 291, 100 S. Ct. 1682, 64 L. Ed. 2d 297 (1980) 13, 15

Schneckloth v. Bustamonte, 412 U.S. 235, 93 S. Ct. 2041, 36 L. Ed. 2d 854 (1973) 9-11, 15, 16

United States v. Gay, 774 F.2d 368 (10th Cir. 1985) 13

United States v. Mendenhall, 446 U.S. 544, 100 S. Ct. 1870, 64 L. Ed. 2d 497 (1980) 9

STATUTES

§ 18-3-206, Colo. Rev. Stat. (1986) 1, 2

No. _____

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES
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PERRY MARUCA,
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On Petition for Writ of Certiorari
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RESPONDENT'S BRIEF IN OPPOSITION TO CERTIORARI

STATEMENT OF THE CASE

Petitioner, Perry Maruca, seeks certiorari review of the Colorado Court of Appeals' affirmance of his conviction of felony menacing, a class 5 felony violating § 18-3-206, Colo. Rev. Stat. (1986). The Colorado Supreme Court denied certiorari. The facts of his crime and of the legal issues he raises are summarized as follows.

A. FELONY MENACING (TRIAL EVIDENCE)

Against Petitioner Maruca's will, his fiance, Dr. May Okihiro, wanted to end their engagement, move out, and terminate their rocky, three-year relationship. One day they argued about it for an hour or two, then she backed off. The next morning Petitioner re-started the argument, indi-

cating now that he was going to kill himself. He took a bag that she believed contained his guns and drove away.

When Petitioner came home, May renewed her insistence that they go their separate ways. This angered him. Then he said, "That's it then, I wasn't going to do it but after reading your letter [that she had just given him], I am just going to do it here." Then he brought two handguns in from his car.

Very angry, Petitioner continued to threaten to kill himself. Moving fast, he looked around upstairs for bullets. May begged him not to do it and threatened to call the police. Armed with at least one gun, he grabbed the phone from her, went downstairs, grabbed another phone, and put the two phones in his car.

Then he went back upstairs, still threatening to kill himself. May tried to grab the gun or guns from him and he wrestled with her. She ran into another room and picked up a third phone. Still armed, he said, "If you call the police, I will take you with me. Is that what you want me to do. Is that what you want me to do? Do you want me to take you with me?"

She said no; he reached around her and grabbed the third phone from her. He was very agitated and angry. She was afraid he was going to kill both of them. He pulled the phone out of the wall and broke the receiver. She ran downstairs. Upstairs he said, "Well, I am just going to do it now," counted aloud down to one, and fired.[1] She

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[1] However, firing the gun is not an element of the crime of felony menacing. § 18-3-206, Colo. Rev. Stat. (1986). The elements are: "by any threat or physical action, knowingly places or attempts to place another person in fear of imminent

screamed and ran back upstairs, and he said, "This is what it's going to sound like when I do it."

Petitioner then bullied May verbally, repetitively, for another hour or two. A fourth phone rang, and he would not let her answer; her friend Deborah left a message. Deborah called back four or five times, but Petitioner refused to let May answer. He became more and more angry in response to the ringing. May finally insisted on answering and told Deborah she was okay. Then he angrily made May call her back and tell her not to call the police. He continued to harangue May that evening until he calmed down and fell asleep.

The harangue continued the next morning. Petitioner repeated a previous threat to make May's life miserable if she did not marry him. That night, when he was out, she departed, first going to Deborah's house, then to the Boulder Safe House. She took her clothes and left him a note that she had gone to the safe house.

Petitioner thereafter reported May to the police as missing. When the police located and talked to her at the safe house, she informed them of the menacing incident, including his threats to kill himself and her. She also related her departure from Petitioner's home, including taking her clothes and leaving him a note. The police then phoned him and asked him to come to the Justice Center to "chat." (They did not "order" him to do so, as his Petition claims at p. 2.)

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serious bodily injury . . . by the use of a deadly weapon . . . ." *Id.*

B. OFFICERS' SUPPRESSION TESTIMONY

At the suppression hearing, Deputy Scott and Detective Norton testified as follows.

1. Arrest & Non-Advisement; "Where Are the Guns?"; Refusal to Answer

Petitioner was taken to an interview room with Deputy Scott and Detective Norton. Scott advised Petitioner he was being arrested, for felony menacing.

No interrogation commenced. Rather, Petitioner immediately became very upset and agitated, volunteering that he did not wish to speak to the officers, denying the charge, and saying he wanted to leave. Scott had been preparing to give Petitioner the *Miranda* advisement, but overlooked and omitted it in the confusion of both calming Petitioner down and putting himself in a defensive position against possible violence from Petitioner.

After Petitioner was calmed down, the officers said only one thing: Detective Norton asked Petitioner, "Where are the guns?" Petitioner replied that he was not going to tell them. The officers said nothing more.

2. Volunteered Statement: Offer to Surrender the Guns

About a minute passed in silence. The officers said nothing. They did nothing to elicit further response. Detective Norton was thinking about the fact that he would have to get a search warrant.

Then Petitioner volunteered to take them to his home and give them the guns "for safekeeping." The officers did not accept "safekeeping" as a limitation on receipt of the guns. Nor did they did make any further statement or request about the guns. Detective Norton did explain that Petitioner would have to go handcuffed in a patrol car with Deputy Scott. Petitioner agreed.

3. Two Later Volunteered Admissions

At Petitioner's house the officers followed him and he showed them where two handguns were. The officers seized them. Petitioner's demeanor was "real cooperative" and everyone's tone of voice was normal.

Before Petitioner and the officers left his house, they gave water to Petitioner's dog. They had been at the house 15 to 20 minutes. Then Petitioner volunteered to Detective Norton that he had been thinking about "taking himself out" but had decided not to because he had too much to lose. The officers had not asked him any questions prior to this statement and had not done anything to try to elicit it.

Going back to the Justice Center with Deputy Scott, Petitioner volunteered that he had known May was leaving because she had taken clothes with her. Again, the officers had not said anything to Petitioner before that statement or done anything to try to elicit it.

C. PETITIONER'S SUPPRESSION TESTIMONY

Petitioner testified at the suppression hearing that he was age 33, working as a registered nurse for the University of Colorado (holding a four-year degree in nursing), and getting a degree in mechanical engineering. He said that when he

was with the officers his thinking was not confused and he understood what they said.

His testimony reasonably supported, and did not contradict, the voluntariness of his offer and consent to search, as well as the voluntariness of his two later statements. His testimony reasonably supported, and did not contradict, the complete absence of questioning other than the request for the location of the guns, and the complete absence of coercive conduct or statements.

D. SUPPRESSION DENIED; EVIDENCE AT TRIAL

The state trial court found that Petitioner received no *Miranda* advisement, but was not interrogated. The trial court also found that Petitioner voluntarily gave the guns to the officers, without the officers accepting the "safekeeping" limitation he initially proposed.

Both officers testified at trial to Petitioner's offer and surrender of the guns "for safekeeping." They said guns matching the description given by the victim were recovered in working order from Petitioner's home. Victim May had already testified that Petitioner had one or two handguns in his hands when he was threatening to kill himself and her. The guns were not placed into evidence.

The officers also testified at trial to Petitioner's statements to them that he had intended to kill himself and that he had known May was leaving because she had taken her clothes. Again, May had already told the jury about his threats to kill himself and about having left him a departure note and taken her clothes.

Petitioner presented no evidence at trial.

E. AFFIRMANCE ON APPEAL

Based on the preceding essentially uncontroverted facts, the Colorado Court of Appeals affirmed, as follows.

Consensual Search. The court of appeals held the evidence sufficient to support the trial court's finding that Petitioner's offer to take the police home and give them his guns was "voluntary and not the product of coercion." The court added that "defendant's physical surrender of the guns at his home was a volitional act performed after he had initially exercised his right to remain silent and without further request or inquiry by the officers."

Volunteered Later Statements. The court of appeals held that the two later admissions "were volunteered rather than being made in response to any police interrogation. They were made long after the sole inquiry made by the officers at the police station."

Harmlessness Beyond Reasonable Doubt; Overwhelming Evidence of Guilt. The court of appeals held that, even if the search offer was elicited in violation of *Miranda*, the admission of its fruit (the officers' observation testimony) was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt, since other evidence of the accused's guilt was overwhelming.

Victim's Testimony. The court of appeals particularly noted the independent evidence of the three admissions, citing "the extensive testimony by the victim who described in detail how defendant had threatened her with the guns and indicated that he intended to commit suicide and take her with him." The court thus viewed the officers' "brief corroborative testimony" about the guns and about Petitioner's statements as cumulative to May's independent, overwhelm-

ing evidence, and thus (if erroneous) harmless beyond a reasonable doubt.

SUMMARY OF THE ARGUMENT

The Petition for Writ of Certiorari should be dismissed, for it presents no new legal issue and turns on essentially factual claims challenging trial court findings and appellate conclusions that all have reasonable support in the evidence. Specifically:

As the appellate court concluded, the evidence reasonably supports the trial court's finding that the search and seizure of Petitioner's two handguns in his home (at his invitation) was consensual, hence that testimony about it was admissible. Alternatively, the evidence reasonably supports affirmance under either the inevitable discovery or independent evidence doctrine.

As the appellate court also concluded, the evidence reasonably supports the trial court's finding that none of the three un-Mirandized admissions (not even the first) was preceded by interrogation and that each was voluntary.

The evidence reasonably supports the appellate court's alternative conclusion that any error was harmless beyond a reasonable doubt, given the overwhelming evidence of Petitioner's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, even without the three admissions and the search-observations.

ARGUMENT

I. THE TOTALITY OF THE EVIDENCE REASONABLY SUPPORTS THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING OF VOLUNTARY CONSENT BY PETITIONER TO THE SEARCH AND SEIZURE OF HIS GUNS.

(THE RECORD ALSO REASONABLY ESTABLISHES INEVITABLE DISCOVERY OR INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE OF HIS GUNS.)

A. CONSENSUAL SEARCH

Courts determine whether consent to a search is voluntary by examining the totality of the circumstances. *United States v. Mendenhall*, 446 U.S. 544, 557, 100 S. Ct. 1870, 64 L. Ed. 2d 497 (1980). The State must prove consent was freely and voluntarily given. *Florida v. Royer*, 460 U.S. 491, 497, 103 S. Ct. 1319, 75 L. Ed. 2d 229 (1983). The proof must be by a preponderance of the evidence. *See Lego v. Twomey*, 404 U.S. 477, 488-89, 92 S. Ct. 619, 30 L. Ed. 2d 618 (1972); *Schneckloth v. Bustamonte*, 412 U.S. 235, 93 S. Ct. 2041, 36 L. Ed. 2d 854 (1973). It is a question of fact; the reviewing court must affirm unless the trial court's finding is clearly erroneous. *Royer*, *supra*.

A voluntary consent to a search is one that is "the product of an essentially free and unconstrained choice by its maker." *Schneckloth*, *supra*, 412 U.S. at 225. The question is whether the defendant's will was "overborne." *Id.* 412 U.S. at 226. That is: was the defendant's consent coerced? *See id.* 412 U.S. at 227-28.

Determining factors include the defendant's age, education, intelligence, experience, and conduct; the length of time involved; and the conduct and statements of the police. *Oregon v. Bradshaw*, 462 U.S. 1039, 1046, 103 S. Ct. 2830, 77 L. Ed. 2d 405 (1983); *Schneckloth*, 412 U.S. at 226. Knowledge of the right to refuse is a factor, but not a *sine qua non*. *Id.* 412 U.S. at 227, 232-34. Consent is not the same as waiver of rights and does not require waiver. *Id.* 412 U.S. at 235-46.

Here the record reasonably supports the trial court's finding that Petitioner voluntarily offered the search and seizure of his guns. His age, intelligence, occupation, course of study, and testimony all reasonably support a free, unconstrained decision. There were no coercive words or conduct. His state of mind by then was calm.

He had been asked, "Where are the guns?", but had immediately refused to answer; and the officers had said nothing more and had not tried to persuade him to answer. *Cf. Michigan v. Mosley*, 423 U.S. 106, 104-05, 96 S. Ct. 321, 41 L. Ed. 2d 313 (1975) (interrogation case; held, assertion of silence was fully respected when officers did not continue questioning or try to persuade suspect to reconsider; thus later admission was volunteered).

Here, the search and seizure were Petitioner's idea. So was limiting them to "safekeeping" purposes (though he inaccurately implies the contrary at p. 3 of his Petition). The police did not accept that limitation, and his own testimony and conduct reasonably support the finding that he did not insist on or expect performance of that limitation.

Nor did his words, "for safekeeping", imply, as the Petition claims, some substantive admission of guilt. His suppression testimony and the officers' testimonies reason-

ably indicate that he meant merely that he wanted his guns kept safe while he was in jail.

Under *Royer*, *supra*, and *Schneckloth*, *supra*, the consent to search and seizure was thus reasonably found to be voluntary. Thus the testimony about the search and seizure was fully admissible. *See Royer*, *supra*.

B. INEVITABLE DISCOVERY AND INDEPENDENT EVIDENCE

Alternatively, evidence initially discovered in an unconstitutional manner may be received if the record shows by a preponderance that the same evidence inevitably would have been obtained lawfully in the normal course of police investigation. *Nix v. Williams*, 467 U.S. 431, 444, 104 S. Ct. 2501, 81 L. Ed. 2d 377 (1984). It likewise may be received if the record shows by a preponderance that the evidence would have been discovered by means wholly independent of any constitutional violation. *Id.* 467 U.S. at 443-44.

The focus of analysis is not what might have been done, but what investigatory measures necessarily or inevitably would have been taken, even absent the police intrusion in question. *See id.* Factors to consider are whether: (1) the searchers were already seeking the specific evidence obtained by that intrusion; and (2) in the "natural and probable course of events," the search would soon have led to the discovery without that intrusion. *Id.*

Here, the officers would inevitably have found Petitioner's guns. Detective Norton started planning to get a search warrant as soon as Petitioner refused to provide the location; only Petitioner's change of mind prevented the detective

from doing so. Petitioner was in custody and could not remove the guns.

Similarly, Victim May had independently already told the officers that Petitioner had them, giving the police probable cause for a search warrant, *see Illinois v. Gates*, 462 U.S. 213, 238-39, 103 S. Ct. 2317, 76 L. Ed. 2d 527 (1983).

Thus even if, *arguendo*, the trial court had erred in finding there was no voluntary consent to the search, the admission of the gun-observation evidence was reasonable and must be affirmed, either as a matter of inevitable discovery, *see Nix*, *supra*, or of independent evidence, *see id.*; *Murray v. United States*, 487 U.S. 533, 537-39, 108 S. Ct. 2529, 101 L. Ed. 2d 472 (1988).[2]

II. THE TOTALITY OF THE EVIDENCE REASONABLY SUPPORTS THE TRIAL COURT'S FINDING THAT PETITIONER'S THREE UN-MIRANDIZED ADMISSIONS WERE VOLUNTARY AND NOT PRECEDED BY INTERROGATION.

A. NO *MIRANDA* WITHOUT INTERROGATION

When a suspect makes a statement while in custody and under interrogation, he must be advised *inter alia* of his right to remain silent. *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436, 86 S. Ct. 1602, 16 L. Ed. 2d 694 (1966).

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[2] This is so, even though the Colorado Court of Appeals did not discuss the two doctrines (the State had asserted both). *See Dandridge v. Williams*, 397 U.S. 471, 475, n.6, 90 S. Ct. 1153, 25 L. Ed. 2d 491 (1970).

"Interrogation" is typically found to exist when there are: (1) express questions by a police officer, or (2) words or acts by an officer that he should know are reasonably likely to elicit an incriminating response. *Rhode Island v. Innis*, 446 U.S. 291, 300-01, 100 S. Ct. 1682, 64 L. Ed. 2d 297 (1980). The existence of interrogation turns primarily on the perception of the suspect, not on the intent of the officer. *Id.* 446 U.S. at 301.

B. FIRST ADMISSION: POSSESSION OF THE GUNS

1. Non-Accusatory Request Is Not Interrogation.

A non-accusatory request that a person consent to a search is not interrogation. *United States v. Gay*, 774 F.2d 368, 379 (10th Cir. 1985). *See Innis, supra.*

In Petitioner's case, after informing him of his arrest and charge, an officer asked Petitioner one, single question: "Where are the guns?" This was non-accusatory, and it reasonably implied a request for consent to a search. **The Petitioner patently perceived it that way**, and his perception controls. *See Innis*. Thus, the question was not an interrogation, *Gay, supra*; *see Innis*. There was thus no error in the admission of Petitioner's answer. *See Innis*.

2. Public-Safety Inquiry is Not Interrogation.

Asking a suspect where a gun is located is not interrogation when asked in order to protect police or others from the weapon. *New York v. Quarles*, 467 U.S. 649, 655-56, 104 S. Ct. 2626, 81 L. Ed. 2d 550 (1984). In the instant

case, the one question asked of Petitioner, "Where are the guns?", was precisely a request to know **where** the guns were. It was patently not a request to know whether Petitioner had used guns. It was not even a request to know whether he had possessed guns. (May had already told the police that he had both possessed and used them.)

Rather, the police had seen Petitioner display great volatility and substantial risk of violence when they informed him of his arrest. This fact, plus his false missing-person report, and May's relation of his threats and his aggressive, volatile behavior toward her while armed, all made it reasonable for the officers to view him as capable of irrational, reckless, and dangerous disposition of the firearms.

The police did not know where the guns were. Petitioner had asked the police to locate May, and could have brought the guns with him, thinking the police would tell him where she was. The weapons could have been outside the police station, unattended, perhaps visible; or in the possession of a waiting companion; or in some other publicly-accessible or visible place. They could have been left somewhere loaded, with their safeties off. They could have been left at home in circumstances endangering May if she were to return for more of her possessions.

As *Quarles* holds, *supra*, 467 U.S. at 657:

> In such a situation, if the police are required to recite the familiar *Miranda* warning before asking the whereabouts of the gun, suspects in [the defendant's] position might well be deterred from responding.

The officer needed an answer to his question "to insure that further danger to the public did not result from the

concealment of the gun in a public area." *Id.* The test is whether the evidence shows the officers' questions were "**reasonably** prompted by a concern for public safety." *Id.* (emphasis added). This test is met on this record. And, as in *Quarles*, 467 U.S. at 654, there is "no claim that Petitioner's statements were actually compelled by police conduct which overcame his will to resist."

Thus Petitioner's volunteered response to the police question was reasonably admitted, despite the absence of a *Miranda* warning.[3]

C. THE TWO LATER ADMISSIONS: NO INTERROGATION; VOLUNTARINESS

As for the two statements volunteered by Petitioner to the police in returning to the police station, neither the slightest questioning, nor soliciting words or acts, preceded either of them. Under *Innis*, *supra*, no interrogation was present, hence *Miranda's* advisement of rights was not required, and the two admissions were properly admitted into evidence if they were volunteered.

"Voluntary" means "the product of an essentially free and unconstrained choice by its maker." *Schneckloth*, *supra*, 412 U.S. at 225. The question is whether the defendant's will was "overborne." *Id.* at 226. It is determined on the totality of the circumstances. *Id.*

Thus coercive police activity "is a necessary predicate" to finding that a self-incriminating statement is not voluntary.

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[3] Again, this is so, even though the Colorado Court of Appeals did not address the public-safety exception (the State had asserted it). *See Dandridge*, *supra*.

Colorado v. Connelly, 479 U.S. 157, 167, 107 S. Ct. 515, 93 L. Ed. 2d 473 (1986); *Schneckloth*, *supra*, 412 U.S. at 227-28. Absence of coercion must be established by the State by a preponderance of the evidence. *Connelly*, 479 U.S. at 168; *Lego*, *supra*; *see Schneckloth*, *supra*.

Determining factors include the age, education, intelligence, experience, and conduct of the defendant, the length of time involved, and the conduct and statements of the police. *Bradshaw*, *supra*, 462 U.S. 1046; *Schneckloth*, 412 U.S. at 226. Knowledge of the right to refuse consent may be a factor, but it is not a requirement. *Schneckloth*, 412 U.S. at 227, 232-34. Voluntariness is a separate issue from waiver. *Id.* 412 U.S. at 235-46.

Here, as the trial court found, Petitioner's admitted education, intelligence, experience, and frame of mind all reasonably support voluntariness, by a preponderance. And in *Connelly's* language, "the record is devoid of any suggestion that the police resorted to physical or psychological pressure to elicit" the two later admissions. The tone of the participants was "normal." The Petitioner was "real cooperative." The officers had just let him stop to give water to his dog.

Petitioner claims that, if the un-Mirandized question constituted interrogation, it encompassed and coerced the two later statements. But "interrogation" had ceased after the asking of the question, and it had not resumed when Petitioner volunteered his two admissions. Only when interrogation has resumed before the voluntary self-incrimination do the Fifth Amendment advisement and waiver return as requirements. *Bradshaw*, *supra*, 462 U.S. at 1044-45.

Moreover, time had passed, the location had changed from the police station to Petitioner's home, and the action had changed from arrest to search and seizure. Thus, the two later admissions were not responses to the question. *Cf. Nardone v. United States*, 308 U.S. 338, 341, 60 S. Ct. 266, 84 L. Ed. 307 (1939) (unlawful search; attenuation dissipates taint, precluding exclusion of evidence); *accord Murray*, *supra*, 487 U.S. at 537.

III. THE RECORD REASONABLY SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION THAT THERE WAS OVERWHELMING EVIDENCE OF GUILT BEYOND A REASONABLE DOUBT WITHOUT THE ADMISSIONS AND THE SEARCH-OBSERVATION TESTIMONY.

Even when an admission is coerced, if there is ample other evidence without it to support conviction beyond a reasonable doubt, admitting the coerced admission into evidence is harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. *Arizona v. Fulminante*, 499 U.S. 279, 295, 111 S. Ct. 1246, 113 L. Ed. 2d 302 (1991); *see Chapman v. California*, 386 U.S. 18, 24, 87 S. Ct. 824, 17 L. Ed. 2d 705 (1967). Likewise, admission of the fruit of an illegal search is harmless beyond a reasonable doubt given ample other evidence of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. *See Fulminante*, *supra*; *Chapman*, *supra*.

Factors to consider include whether the incriminating statement was a full confession, whether conviction depended on the jury believing the illegal evidence, whether that evidence was merely cumulative, and whether its admission led to admission of other prejudicial evidence. *Fulminante*, *supra*, 499 U.S. at 296-301.

Thus, even if, *arguendo*, the three disputed admissions here were all coerced, and the search was illegal, the Colorado Court of Appeals correctly concluded that any error would have been harmless beyond a reasonable doubt. As the Statement of the Facts summarizes above, none of the admissions was a confession; each was an ancillary reference to one of the many facts of the crime. The police observation of the guns was likewise ancillary. The admission of the three statements and the search-observation testimony into evidence did not lead to admission of any other evidence; nor were the four disputed items foundational to other evidence.

And successful prosecution did not depend on whether the jury believed the four items. Each was cumulative to May's testimony about the same facts. (That is: (1) that Petitioner had guns; (2) that he threatened to kill himself; and (3) that he must have known May had left him when he reported her missing.) Despite the lack of corroborating physical evidence of a physical struggle, despite the absence of other eyewitnesses, her evidence was overwhelming on its face in its proof of guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Petition argues to the contrary that May's credibility was adversely affected by the omission from the police report of any mention that Petitioner had fired a gun during their argument. The argument is incorrect. First, May was not the one who initiated this case; she did not contact the police. Thus the omission of the gunshot from the report reflects on the thoroughness of the police, who reported her answers. (May testified that she had told the police everything she told the jury.)

Second, her credibility on the face of the trial transcript is overwhelming. She testified articulately, consistently, in detail, and at length about the events of the crime and the

surrounding circumstances. Her sincerity and intelligence were patent. She was compassionate toward the defendant.

And nothing called her credibility into question specifically as to his possession of the guns, his suicide threats, or his knowledge (through her note, absent clothes, and previous expressions of intent) that she had departed.

CONCLUSION

No fair reading of the record could possibly give rise to a supportable conclusion that the evidence does not reasonably support the trial court's findings and the appellate court's conclusions. Thus the Petition for Writ of Certiorari presents no new legal issue and no cognizable factual issue. It therefore should be denied.

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